

Millennium Grove, Chillicothe, Ohio  
Harry Truman Silver Maple  
Park Directory Tag: President's Glade 10 (P10)

The silver maple, *Acer saccharine*, also known as a water maple or white maple, is a species of maple native to the eastern and central United States and southeastern Canada. It is one of the most common trees in the United States. The silver maple is a relatively fast-growing deciduous tree normally reaching heights of 50-85 feet, few have reached over 110 feet. It is often found along waterways and wetlands, leading to the colloquial name "water maple". It is a highly adaptable tree that requires more sunlight than most maples. Most live between 100-130 years.

The tree tends to color and drop its leaves slightly earlier than other maples. The autumn color of the silver maple is less pronounced than in many other maples, generally ending up a pale yellow, although some specimens can pronounce a more brilliant yellow or even orange and red colorations.

Silver maple and its close cousin red maple are the only *Acer* species which produce their fruit crop in spring instead of fall. The seeds of both species have no epigeal dormancy (germination that takes place above ground) and will germinate immediately. Seed production begins at 11 years of age.

The silver maple in Chillicothe's Millennium Grove comes from Harry Truman's 598-acre farm in Grandview Missouri. Harry S. Truman was the 33<sup>rd</sup> president of the United States, serving from 1945 to 1953. He was the 34<sup>th</sup> vice president of the United States from January 1945 to April 1945 under Franklin D. Roosevelt, during Roosevelt's short and unprecedented fourth term.

Truman grew up in independence Missouri, and during World War I fought in France as a captain in the Field Artillery. Truman was elected to the United States Senate from Missouri in 1934 and gained national prominence as chairman of the Truman Committee, which was aimed at reducing waste and inefficiency in wartime contracts.

In 1944 President Roosevelt's advisors realized Roosevelt would not live out a fourth term and that his vice president would very likely become the next president. Henry Wallace had served as Roosevelt's vice president and was popular but was viewed as too far left. Roosevelt told party leaders he would accept Truman or Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas as his running mate. Truman did not campaign for the vice-president spot and his nomination was dubbed the "Second Missouri Comprise".

After the election Roosevelt and Truman had little contact, the president and vice president met alone together only twice in their time in office. When Truman took over the office of the presidency, he knew nothing of the top-secret Manhattan Project, which was about to test the world's first atomic bomb. Ironically, Joseph Stalin was already aware of the bomb project, having learned about through atomic espionage long before Truman did.

Truman had been vice president for 82 days when President Roosevelt died on April 12, 1945. Truman was sworn in as president at 7:09 pm in the West Wing of the White House, By Chief Justice Harlan F. Stone. It was not until April 25 that Secretary of War Henry Stimson told Truman the details of the Manhattan Project.

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After becoming president, Truman benefited from a honeymoon period from the military success in Europe, as the nation celebrated V-E Day on May 8, 1945, his 61<sup>st</sup> birthday. In July, Truman journeyed to Berlin for the Potsdam Conference with Joseph Stalin, Winston Churchill and Clement Attlee. In August, the Japanese government refused surrender demands as specifically outlined in the Potsdam Declaration. With Operation Downfall, the invasion of Japan, imminent, Truman approved the schedule for dropping two available bombs. Truman stated that dropping the bombs saved lives on both sides.

On August 6, 1945, an atomic bomb, code name "Little Boy" was dropped on the Japanese city of Hiroshima. This was the first nuclear weapon used in warfare and the second man-made nuclear explosion in history, after the Trinity nuclear test. The bomb was dropped by the Boeing B-29 Superfortress Enola Gay, piloted by Colonel Paul W. Tibbets Jr. "Little Boy" weighed 9,700 pounds and was filled with highly enriched uranium. It exploded with an energy of 15 kilotons of TNT and caused widespread death and destruction throughout the city.

Three days later, on August 9, 1945, a nuclear bomb, code name "Fat Man" was detonated over the Japanese city of Nagasaki. It was dropped from the Boeing B-29 Superfortress Bockscar, piloted by Major Charles Sweeney. "Fat Man" weighed 10,300 pounds and was filled with plutonium. It exploded with an energy 21 kilotons of TNT, an estimated 35,000-40,000 were killed outright by the bombing of Nagasaki.

In 1946 Truman created the President's Committee on Civil Rights. On June 29, 1947, Truman became the first president to address the NAACP. The speech took place at the Lincoln Memorial. In 1948 Truman issued Executive orders 9980 and 9981, racially integrating federal agencies and the U.S. Armed Services.

The 1948 presidential election is remembered for Truman's stunning come-from-behind victory. Truman's 1948 campaign was a 21,928-mile presidential odyssey in which he made a personal appeal to the nation. Truman crisscrossed the United States by train, giving "whistle stop" speeches from the rear platform of the observation car, Ferdinand Magellan. The defining image of the campaign came after Election Day, when a usually stoic Truman ecstatically held aloft the front page of the Chicago Tribune with a huge headline proclaiming, "Dewey defeats Truman." Truman's second inauguration was the first ever televised nationally.

Due to a grandfather clause in the 22<sup>nd</sup> Amendment, Truman was eligible to run for president in 1952. Truman seriously considered running for another term in 1952, but with his age, failing abilities and poor poll numbers, his advisors talked him out of it. In the general election Republican Dwight Eisenhower easily defeated Adlai Stevenson.

On December 5, 1972, Truman was admitted Kansas City's Medical Center with pneumonia. He developed multiple organ failures, fell into a coma and died on December 26, at the age of 88. Bess Truman opted for a simple private service at his library rather than a state funeral in Washington.

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